NDRI Weekly

NEWSLETTER

नेपाल विकास अनुसन्धान प्रतिष्ठान
Nepal Development Research Institute
NDRI

1st January to 7th January | Year: 2024 | Volume:127

Would "Marijuana" Legalization take a course?

Should Nepal legalize Marijuana (Cannabis) was discussed under the title "Marijuana's Medicinal Value & Its Social Impact" among the key stakeholders that included Scientists, the relevant Government Ministries, Departments, Think Tanks, and most importantly the private sectors in the Conference Hall of Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) on 3rd January 2024. A major course of discussion was floated toward the point of whether the Government should legalize it or not, but it has been an important part of the Nepalese economy ever from the history.



Dr. Nawa Raj Khatiwada, Senior Research Specialist at NDRI, opinioned that the Nepal Government should form a high-level committee and make necessary legal infrastructures to leverage this important part of the economy. Dr. Jaya K Gurung, Lead of the Health, Education and Environment Program at NDRI suggested that it has to be carefully done in a regulated manner for which necessary research should be done.

Dr. Ramesh Chandra Paudel, Honorable Member of the Planning Commission (NPC) was the chief guest for the workshop, and was chaired by Prof. Dr. Dilip Subba, Vice Chancellor of NAST. The four presentations before discussions from academia, legal experts, private sector were very informative. NAST has committed to prepare a proceeding of the workshop and share it with all the stakeholder participants. A one-page media briefing was circulated after the program that described the very general information about Marijuana and also informed that NAST would continue discussed in the future.

The take-home message from this half-day workshop facilitated by Dr. Rabindra Dhakal, Member Secretary of NAST was that "Marijuana" could be part of the Nepalese economy and could be leveraged with enough homework in regulated manner.

Collaborative Proposal Development Meeting for Inclusive Early Learning and School Readiness



On January 3, 2024, NDRI organized a meeting with Professor Dr. Gangaram Gautam, Education Expert, and Mr. Ram Chandra Timilsina, Director of the Center for Education and Human Resource Development, Ministry of Education. The purpose of the meeting was to collaborate on the development of a proposal initiated by the Knowledge Innovation Exchange (KIX) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) focused on "Knowledge and Innovation for Inclusive Early Learning and School Readiness." During the meeting, responsibilities were assigned to the members of the proposal development team, outlining their specific roles and tasks for the upcoming proposal.

Following the meeting, Dr. Manjeshwori Singh, Senior Research Specialist at NDRI, and Dr. Shankar Shrestha, Executive Director of NDRI, handed over the NDRI Planner as a souvenir to Mr. Ram Chandra Timalsina and Prof. Dr. Gangaram Gautam.

NDRI Organizes Insightful Talk Program on Karnali Province Development with Mr. Yogendra Shahi as Key Speaker



In a bid to shed light on the developmental status of Karnali Province, the Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) organized a thought-provoking talk program on January 4th, 2024. The focal point of the event was the address by Hon. Yogendra Shahi, Vice-chairman of the Planning Commission of the Karnali Province, who provided comprehensive insights into various facets of the province's development.

Hon. VC, serving as a prominent representative of the committee, delved into several crucial topics during his address. A key highlight was the discussion on the distribution of resources for Karnali Province by the government. He outlined the current scenario and shed light on the plans and strategies in place to ensure equitable resource allocation for the province's growth. He elaborated on the challenges and opportunities presented by the federal structure and how it is influencing the socio-economic landscape of the region.

Tourism possibilities emerged as a significant aspect of the talk, with Mr. Shahi exploring the potential of Karnali Province in the tourism sector.

Other infrastructural development initiatives were also part of the comprehensive talk, outlining the ongoing and future projects aimed at enhancing the overall infrastructure of Karnali Province. This encompassed transportation, communication, and other key areas vital for sustainable development.



Concluding his address, Mr. Shahi articulated the vision and plans of the Karnali Province Planning Commission for the province's further development. The talk program provided an invaluable platform for stakeholders and the public to gain a deeper understanding of the current state and future trajectory of Karnali Province's growth.

The event, organized by NDRI, served as a crucial forum for fostering dialogue, collaboration, and a shared commitment to advancing the developmental agenda of the Karnali Province.

Mr. Yogendra B. Shahi's talk program can be accessed through the following Official YouTube link of NDRI:



https://youtu.be/ZuwRbP0TPOshttps://youtu.be/ZuwRbP0TPOs

Thought-provoking News

Kapilvastu still has a long way to go to reduce home births

https://kathmandupost.com/

Will declaring an emergency help accelerate infrastructure projects?

https://kathmandupost.com/national/2024/01/05/will-declaring-an-emergency-help-accelerate-infrastructure-projects

Thought of the Week

You cannot swim for new horizons until you have courage to lose sight of the shore."

-William Faulkner

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